

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



July 12, 2006

Anthony St. Laurent pleads guilty to extortion conspiracy

Anthony St. Laurent, Sr., 65, of Johnston, pled guilty today to conspiring to extort payments from two men.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the guilty plea, which St. Laurent entered before U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith in U.S. District Court Providence.

At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha said that the government could prove that, in April, St. Laurent directed other men to collect \$100,000 from two men and, if they did not pay at least \$50,000, the men under St. Laurent's direction should "bash" the victims. On April 6, three men under St. Laurent's direction went to Taunton, Massachusetts, where they met a fourth man, who attempted to lead them to the victims in an effort to collect the money.

FBI agents and detectives from the Rhode Island State Police and Providence Police arrested St. Laurent the next day.

The maximum penalty for conspiracy to commit extortion is 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. In addition to whatever sentence St. Laurent receives for the extortion conspiracy, the government will recommend an additional one year sentence, consecutive to the other, for violating the terms of a supervised release imposed in 1999 for another federal extortion conspiracy.

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The FBI investigated the case, with assistance from the State Police and Providence Police. Assistant U.S. Attorney James H. Leavey is prosecuting the case, with assistance from Assistant U.S. Attorney Neronha.

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